

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, 1, 5 and 6 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is attached to this Amendment. Acknowledgement of consideration of the references submitted with the IDS is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claim 6 because of informalities. Claim 6 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 6 is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,169,544 to Onoda et al. (hereinafter "Onoda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,430,832 to Imaizumi et al. (hereinafter "Imaizumi"); and claims 4, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Onoda in view of Imaizumi and further in view of JP 2001/126070 to Tanaka (hereinafter "Tanaka"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Onoda only discloses at col. 4, lines 46-67, and in FIGS. 3A to 3C, a rectangular shape of the layout area. Imaizumi discloses at col. 3, lines 24-37, that "one aspect of the present invention has the function of trimming an arbitrary area* out of an image displayed on a screen" and that "the image surrounded by the trimming frame is

*Not "arbitrary shape."

displayed in enlargement." FIGS. 6(a) and 12(a) to 14(f) of Imaizumi only disclose rectangular trimming frames.

Thus, the applied art does not disclose that "a user can designate the trimming range in any desirable shape, i.e., in arbitrary shape by the trimming shape designating section 106." Support for this feature is found in the specification at page 11, line 24 to page 12, line 1 of the initially-filed English specification. Independent claims 1 and 5 are amended to recite this feature, i.e., an arbitrary shape.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims are distinguishable over the applied art. The dependent claims are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Response to Examiner's Arguments

Item 9 of the final Office Action asserts as follows: "Applicant argues, 'Imaizumi does not cure the deficiency' (page 8, applicant response.) The Examiner could not understand what deficiency the applicant [has] implied unless applicant specifically point[s] out which deficiency regarding the claim[ed] invention has not [been] taught by the cited references."

These remarks address page 8, lines 12-13 of the September 8, 2005 Amendment. The passage at page 8, lines 12-13 of the September 8, 2005 Amendment, as noted above, should have stated "Accordingly, Onoda does not disclose the features of claims 1 and 5, and Imaizumi fails to cure this deficiency." Furthermore, in order to further clarify this issue, page 8, line 15, of the September 8 Amendment should have stated as follows: "(i.e., edge lines of a rectangular scanned image cause noise around the captured image.)"

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Information Disclosure Statement

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